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### Business Notices.

BRAND "

BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNE.

NEW-YORK—No. 1,238 Broadway, corner Thirty-first-st.; No. 308 West Twenty-third-st., corner Third-ave.; No. 760 Third-ave., corner Forty-ninth-st.; No. 92 East Fourteenth-st., corner Nassau-square; No. 2386 Fourth-ave. (Harlem.)

WASHINGTON—No. 1,322 F-st.

BALTIMORE—No. 26 Bedford-st., Strand.

PHILADELPHIA—No. 9 Rue Scribe.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1879.

Mr. Varnum's bill for the removal of the Forty-second Street Reservoir on Fifth-ave., and the conversion of its site into a public park, comes up in Committee at Albany on Wednesday. Some interesting facts about this plan may be found in the opinions of the Hon. Allan Campbell, quoted in a letter elsewhere printed this morning. Such another opportunity to beautify at trifling cost the choicest portion of the city is not likely to occur again for many years, and it would be

It is untrue, too, and palpably untrue, "that the majority of the people wish the "repeal now demanded." All the evidence is to the contrary. The election laws have been enforced for years, and outside of corrupt cliques in a few cities, whose operations have been checked, no demand for a repeal has at any time been made. It is notorious that even now some Democrats, especially from the

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MODERATION.

The Society for the Encouragement of Moderation offers three kinds of pledge, graduated according to the needs and strength of the subscriber. We can hardly expect Tammany to take the red pledge of total abstinence, but the white pledge of "abstinence during business hours" would probably meet its necessities. That would bind it to refrain from blackguarding its candidate in the formal proceedings of the Wigwag, and in preambles and resolutions intended for the public eye. It would oblige the Kelly wing to refrain from futile and demoralizing attempts at impeachment and revolution, but leave them the largest liberty for the use of bad language unofficially, and for damning the Insatiate One to their heart's content in the moments of social relaxation which, we have been informed, usually precede and follow the "business hours" at the Fourteenth-st. temple. They could get a great deal of comfort out of indulgence taken in this way, and it would not involve the painful consequences which are sure to follow their present wild immoderation of invective.

## AN ILLUMINATING DEBATE.

Our Democratic friends misapprehend both the purpose and the effect of the debate in the Senate on Monday upon the change in the officers of that body. It was not intended to offer any serious opposition to the changes which had been agreed on in the Democratic caucus. It was a foregone conclusion that they would be made, and no Republican Senator had any hope of arresting them. Our Democratic friends err in supposing that the Republicans in the Senate expected to retain the offices, and they are equally in error in supposing that the effect of the debate serves to show the country how reluctantly the patronage was yielded. Senator Eaton mistook entirely the drift of the debate when he said the Republicans were acting like "cry-babies" in their opposition to the proposed changes. For as a matter of fact there is not a Republican in the Senate—hardly, indeed, in the whole country—who has not sagaciously enough to see that this

It is barely possible that there is somewhere in the country an old-time Republican who, having become for good reasons dissatisfied with the administration of the public service under President Grant, began to vote the Democratic ticket under the delusion that the Democrats were honest in promising a reform. In that particular, and still continues the practice. If there is such an one, we hope he will search the record of the Democratic party for the past three or four years, or since it began to reap the fruit of such professions. If he can find a single instance where that party has come within grabbing distance of any sort of an office and has not pounced upon it—no matter how meritorious the incumbent or how graceless the applicant—then we have not a word to say against his keeping right on. But if he cannot, we simply suggest that he find some other pretext for his politics than the Democratic position on the Civil Service.

### REACTION IN SPAIN.

If Liberalism has triumphed gloriously on one side of the Pyrenees during the last six years, it has steadily declined in Spain. The constitution has been remodelled, most of the reforms wrought by the revolution have been swept away, a restricted franchise has been substituted for universal suffrage, and everything has been put back where it was under the old-time monarchy. Conservatism has carried everything before it not only in the Cortes and in the Palace, but even in the municipal and provincial councils. At the same time peace has been restored in the distracted mother state, while in Cuba, where 300,000 Spanish soldiers have laid down their lives, a liberal Colonial policy has been enforced. The storm and stress period of the revolution of 1868, the regency of Serrano, the advent of Amadeus and the proclamation of the Republic, have been followed by a strange, almost unnatural lull since the early months of the present reign. The old riotous lull seems to have oozed out of Spanish veins. Until within a few weeks, when the Governor-General of Cuba was made Premier, a single Ministry has remained in power, and there has been scarcely a ripple in the currents of domestic politics. And while there has been peace the reactionary movement has been making constant progress. Scarcely a vestige remains of the Constitution

The robbery of another savings bank by its treasurer, Nathan P. Pratt, at Reading, Mass., is said to have caused great consternation in that old town. It ought to cause a good deal of anxiety everywhere else. Where are these savings bank scandals to stop? What banks of this class are sound and entitled to the confidence of the public? How are thefts of this kind to be guarded against?

It is evident that the Massachusetts system under which a crime of this kind could be committed, and concealed for a period of years, must be an inefficient one. What system will be otherwise? People of small means must put their money where it will pay them a fair interest; more hoarding at home would be both profitless and unsafe. Possibly it will be found necessary for the General Government to take the matter in hand, as it has already done to a limited extent by the issue of small interest-bearing notes.

The venerable, respectable men who have heretofore cared for the money of widows and orphans are many of them still honest and trustworthy, but the difficulty is to be sure of them. So much we may say without hurting anybody's feelings. But nobody at this time of day will deny that there are a good many who are dishonest and untrustworthy. We can send them to prison when we find out their true character, but that does not restore the money which they have feloniously taken. The loss falls upon those who are least able to bear it. If there can be no safety absolute or approximately so, then there is an end of everything, and society might as well break up and resolve itself into its elementary state, allowing those to take who have the power, and those to keep who can. But the intelligence of mankind ought not to be driven to this barbarous resource. If we can make money we ought to be able to protect it from depredations. A rigid enforcement of the law is the readiest resource. Let us have it!

thing, but the presumption, it must be admitted, is that it is otherwise. She may have a good prospect of a happy married life before her, but the world will not be of that opinion. She is only eighteen years old, and therefore hardly old enough to judge and act for herself in such an affair. At any rate, it she had determined to marry Shepherd it would have been a simple act of filial duty for her to have done so openly and with a full publication of her intentions. As for the bridegroom, it may be set down as a mere matter of morality that to man has a right to take a young girl out of her father's house in that way. It was, legally considered, a good deal like an abduction, and a crime, at least as common law. A young housewife would hardly have acted so, however much enamored; and if Shepherd is a man of honor, Mrs. Shepherd's prospects are hardly brilliant. There might have been a plain avowal of their affection by these parties; then an appeal to parental affection and generosity; and finally a regular marriage in the face of the world. There is an absence of good sense in the course actually taken, which is ominous.

Confederate bulldozers are discovering that their violent ways not only repel abolitionists from settling within the range of their promiscuous pistol-play, but are actually driving away the producing portion of their present population. Encampments of negroes at every landing on the lower Mississippi are waiting for the first boat to carry them to the North and West, where their civil and political rights will be recognized. The situation is full of alarm for the planters, who are

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POLITICAL NOTES

General Burnside is not the man to leave his country grovelling in ignorance, if this is a special session. He steps promptly to the front and presents his little old bill to "educate the people" with the Federal funds, with the serene assurance of a statesman who doesn't know enough to know that this paternal measure is conceived in eccentric defiance of all constitutional law, precedent, tradition, experience and common sense.

*PERSONAL.*

Mr. Neal Dow, who has just passed his seventy-fifth birthday, is still a very active person.

Mr. James Russell Lowell has received a

*PERSONAL.*

**GENERAL NOTES.**

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Albany is now making the most of a rare